

U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.), U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), and U.S. Representative Peter Welch (D-Vt.) announced Tuesday that the Federal Transit Administration is releasing \$1,948,000 to the Chittenden County Transportation Authority (CCTA) to design the new downtown transit center in Burlington, expand commuter service to Hinesburg, and upgrade bus shelters throughout the system. The Vermont congressional delegation secured the funding in legislation that passed in 2010.

Specifically, CCTA will use these funds to purchase a bus to serve a new commuter route between Hinesburg and Burlington, install 18 new bus passenger shelters, and design the Downtown Burlington Transit Center. Following a year-long public process with more than 60 community meetings and broad based support, CCTA recently selected Saint Paul Street between Pearl Street and Cherry Street as the location for the new downtown station.

In a joint statement, Leahy, Sanders and Welch said: "We are pleased to help bring this investment to Vermont to help strengthen both our transportation system and our economic infrastructure. These timely capital investments will help CCTA meet the growing demand for quality transit by building a top-notch transit center in Downtown Burlington and expanding commuter-route service to Hinesburg."

CCTA Board Chairman Steve Magowan said: "The station will provide our growing ridership a first class experience at a convenient location with substantial weather protection."